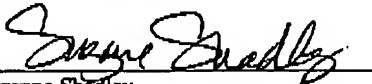


Docket No. 2002-037R1
PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jason Wells

Serial No.: 10/769,546

Filed: 1/30/2004

For: Microfiltration Device and Method For
Washing And Concentrating Solid Particles

Confirmation No.: 5848

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Drodge, J.

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement is submitted in response to the Office action dated June 7, 2006 with a response due on or before August 7, 2006. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the above-referenced patent application on the merits in view of the following remarks:

REMARKS

The Office action sets forth a restriction requirement, and requires election between the inventions defined by Group I (claims 100-108 and 161-177) allegedly drawn to a process of purifying fluid passing through parallel membranes and backflushing the membranes, classified in class 210, subclass 636, Group II (claims 178-183) allegedly drawn to a process for sampling the retentate of a membrane intermittently to form multiple samples, classified in class 73, subclass 863.23, and Group III (claims 184-191) allegedly drawn to a process for sampling the retentate from a plurality of separate membranes mounted in parallel, classified in class 436, subclass 178.